

CITY OF HINTON  
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S EXAMINATION REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013

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CITY OF HINTON

OFFICIALS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Gary Fischer	Mayor	January, 2014
Randy Roehrich	Council Member	January, 2014
Ken Spies	Council Member	January, 2014
Jeff Johnson	Council Member	January, 2016
Keith Towns	Council Member	January, 2016
Kelly Kreber	Council Member	January, 2016
Gerry Judd	City Clerk	Indefinite
Barry Thompson	Attorney	Indefinite

# HUNZELMAN, PUTZIER & CO., PLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

JEFFORY B. STARK, C.P.A.  
JASON K. RAVELING  
TAMMY M. CARLSON, C.P.A.  
RICHARD R. MOORE, C.P.A. (RETIRED)  
WESLEY E. STILLE, C.P.A. (RETIRED)  
KENNETH A. PUTZIER, C.P.A. (RETIRED)  
W. J. HUNZELMAN, C.P.A. 1921-1997

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## Independent Accountant's Examination Report

To the Honorable Mayor  
and Members of City Council:

We have performed an examination of the City of Hinton pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa. Accordingly, we have applied certain tests and procedures to selected accounting records and related information of the City of Hinton for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The procedures we performed are summarized as follows:

1. We reviewed selected City Council meeting minutes for compliance with Chapters 21, 372.13(6) and 380 of the Code of Iowa.
2. We reviewed the City's internal controls to determine if proper control procedures are in place and incompatible duties, from a control standpoint, are not performed by the same employee.
3. We reviewed security bond coverage for compliance with Chapter 64 of the Code of Iowa.
4. We obtained and reviewed the City Clerk's financial reports and selected bank reconciliations to determine whether the bank balances properly reconciled to the general ledger account balances and monthly financial reports provided to the City Council.
5. We reviewed City funds for consistency with the City Finance Committee's (CFC) recommended uniform chart of accounts and to determine required funds and fund balances are properly maintained and accurately accounted for.
6. We reviewed the City's fiscal year 2013 Annual Financial Report (AFR) to determine whether it was completed and accurately reflects the City's financial information.
7. We reviewed compliance with Chapters 12C.2, 12B.10B and 556.1(12) of the Code of Iowa pertaining to required depository resolutions, investment policy and reporting of unclaimed property to the State of Iowa.
8. We reviewed debt, including general obligation and revenue bonds/notes, and related transactions for proper authorization and compliance with Chapters 75, 384 and 403.9 of the Code of Iowa and to determine whether the debt and related proceeds and repayments were properly accounted for.
9. We reviewed and tested selected tax increment financing (TIF) transactions, including receipts, disbursements and transfers, for compliance and accurate accounting, including compliance with the TIF reporting requirements of Chapter 384.22 of the Code of Iowa.

10. We reviewed the City's TIF debt certification forms filed with the County Auditor, including requests for collection of reduced TIF amounts and to decertify certain TIF obligations, as applicable, for proper support and compliance with Chapter 403.19(6) of the Code of Iowa.
11. We reviewed and tested selected receipts for accurate accounting and consistency with the CFC recommended chart of accounts.
12. We reviewed and tested selected disbursements for proper approval, adequate supporting documentation, accurate accounting and consistency with the CFC recommended chart of accounts and compliance with the public purpose criteria established by Article III, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.
13. We reviewed transfers between funds for propriety, proper authorization and accurate accounting.
14. We reviewed and tested selected payroll and related transactions for propriety, proper authorization and accurate accounting.
15. We reviewed the annual certified budget for proper authorization, certification and timely amendment.

Based on the performance of the procedures described above, we identified various recommendations for the City. Our recommendations are described in the Detailed Recommendations section of this report. Unless reported in the Detailed Recommendations, items of non-compliance were not noted during the performance of the specific procedures listed above.

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an audit of the operations of the City of Hinton, the objective of which is the expression of opinions on financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express opinions on the City's financial statements. Had we performed additional procedures, or had we performed an audit of the City of Hinton, additional matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report, a public record by law, is intended solely for the information and use of the officials, employees and citizens of the City of Hinton and other parties to whom the City of Hinton may report. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Hunnegelman, Putzier & Co., PLLC*

March 26, 2014

## DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS

CITY OF HINTON  
DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013

- (A) Segregation of Duties – One important aspect of internal control is the segregation of duties among employees to prevent an individual employee from handling duties which are incompatible. Generally, one individual has control over each of the following areas for the City:

1. Cash – handling, reconciling and recording.
2. Receipts – opening mail, collecting, depositing, journalizing, reconciling and posting.
3. Disbursements – purchasing, invoice processing, check writing, mailing, reconciling and recording.
4. Payroll – recordkeeping, preparation and distribution.
5. Utilities – billing, collecting, depositing and posting.
6. Financial reporting – preparing and reconciling.
7. Journal entries – preparing and journalizing.

Recommendation – We realize segregation of duties is difficult with a limited number of employees. However, the City should review its control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing currently available staff, including elected officials. Independent reviews of reconciliations should be evidenced by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

- (B) Monthly Bank Reconciliations – Although monthly bank reconciliations were prepared, the reconciliations were not reviewed by an independent person.

Recommendation – The City should implement a procedure to have an independent person review and approve monthly bank reconciliations prepared by the City Clerk such as the Mayor or member of the City Council. Approval should be documented by the initials of the reviewer as well as the date of the review.

- (C) Partial Self Funded Health Insurance Funds – The City's partial self funded health insurance funds were not included in the City's accounting records and resulting fund balances.

Recommendation – Chapter 384.20 of the Code of Iowa states, in part, "A City shall keep accounts which show an accurate detailed statement of all public funds collected, received, or expended for any City purpose." For better accountability, financial and budgetary control, the financial activity and balances of all City funds and accounts should be included in the Clerk's accounting system.

- (D) City Council Minutes – Chapter 372.13(6) of the Code of Iowa requires minutes of all City Council proceedings be published within fifteen days of the meeting. Minutes for one of the meetings tested were not published within fifteen days.

Recommendation – The City should comply with the Code of Iowa and publish City Council minutes within fifteen days, as required.

CITY OF HINTON  
DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS  
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- (E) Certified Budget – Disbursements during the year ended June 30, 2013 exceeded the amounts budgeted in the culture and recreation function prior to the budget amendment. At June 30, 2013, disbursements exceeded the amounts budgeted in the business type activities function. Chapter 384.20 of the Code of Iowa states, in part, “Public monies may not be expended or encumbered except under an annual or continuing appropriation.”

Recommendation – The budget should have been amended in accordance with Chapter 384.18 of the Code of Iowa before disbursements were allowed to exceed the budget.

- (F) Journal Entry Approval – The City Clerk has control over multiple duties within the City due to its relatively small size, including preparing and posting journal entries. It was noted that there is no independent approval of journal entries prepared and posted.

Recommendation – The City should implement a procedure to have an independent person review and authorize journal entries prepared by the City Clerk such as the Mayor or member of the City Council. Authorization should be documented by the initials of the reviewer as well as the date of the review.

- (G) Tax Increment Financing – Chapter 403.19 of the Code of Iowa provides a municipality may certify loans, advances, indebtedness and bonds (indebtedness) to the County Auditor which qualify for reimbursement from the fund as provided in Chapter 403.19 of the Code of Iowa. Such certification makes it a duty of the County Auditor to provide for the division of property tax to repay the certified indebtedness and, as such, the County Auditor shall provide available tax increment financing (TIF) incremental property tax in subsequent fiscal years without further certification until the amount of certified indebtedness is paid to the City. Indebtedness incurred is to be certified to the County Auditor and then divided property tax is to be used to pay the principal and interest on the certified indebtedness. We noted the entire amount of interest on general obligation debt has not been certified. Only the annual interest on the debt is being certified.

Recommendation – Debt should be certified to the County Auditor in accordance with Chapter 403.19 of the Code of Iowa. The City should consult legal counsel to ensure the TIF debt certification complies with Chapter 403 of the Code of Iowa.